

THE GATEWAY

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Past PM discusses female politics

KIRSTEN GORUK
Deputy News Editor

Avril Phaedra Douglas Campbell, or Kim Campbell as she is more commonly known, is a woman of many firsts. She was the first female president of the Prince of Wales Secondary School, the first female president of a freshman class at the University of British Columbia, and the first—and to date, only—female Prime Minister of Canada.

Indeed, Campbell's brief stint in 1993 as Canada's 19th Prime Minister and her reputation as a renowned political and feminist figure garnered her a place at the University of Alberta's Prime Ministers Conversation Series, which took place on 5 May.

To start off the evening, the Honourable Jim Edwards, former chair of the U of A Board of Governors, probed into Campbell's early ambitions.

Born and first elected in British Columbia, Campbell didn't grow up in a particularly political family, but that didn't stop her from having enthusiastic goals for the future. She was very interested in international relations, and had hopes of becoming the first woman Secretary General of the United Nations.

"Even when I was very young I wanted to break down barriers for women," she recalled.

Those barriers started to crumble when Campbell entered the world of Canadian politics. The moment she found herself entering into federal politics stands out in her mind.

When highlighting moments of her political career, Campbell observed that it was the issue of the free trade agreement that pushed her hand.

"It was very clear to me that people were not all that knowledgeable about free trade and I was very much in support [of the agreement]," Campbell explained. "I wanted to see whether or not I could participate in some debates or discussions, but I didn't think I'd resign my seat to run federal."

Campbell, who holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and a Bachelor of Law degree, along with seven honorary doctorates, also served in Prime Minister Brian Mulroney's cabinet as minister of Justice.

As the Honourable Anne McLellan, co-host of the event, explained in her introduction, Campbell set a high standard in the way of consultation and communication.

PLEASE SEE **CAMPBELL** • PAGE 3



ONE-WOMAN SHOW The Right Honourable Kim Campbell visited the U of A campus on Monday night where she took part in the Prime Ministers Conversation Series.

New provincial budget promises increased PSE funding

University of Alberta students and staff applaud the new decrease in student loan interest rates to prime

JENNIFER HUYGEN
Senior News Editor

As students break from the regular pace of classes, the Alberta Legislature is back in full swing following the release of the provincial budget, where increases in post-secondary education (PSE) funding were greeted with enthusiasm from student representatives and university administration alike.

The provincial budget, released on 22 April, marks an increase of 12.1 per cent in the area of adult learning, which will see a \$221 million net increase over the 2008–09 year to boost access to in-demand post-secondary programs across the province.

Additionally, \$13.4 million in spending is slated to address Alberta's student financial assistance package by enhancing student loan interest rates, doubling monthly part-time earning expenses, and removing restrictions on scholarship earnings.

According to outgoing Students' Union Vice-President (External) Steven Dollansky, student reaction to the budget was positive, largely because the spending allocation confirmed previous student lobby efforts

and concerns.

"We were very encouraged to see the Ministry addressing a number of the concerns that we had with the financial aid system in Alberta," he said.

"We've been lobbying the government for years on this, and they've finally acknowledged that interests rates are too high, and it's a huge step in the right direction."

MIKE SELNES
CHAIR OF CAUS

"As a general reaction, we were pleased to see [in] some of the language [used] that students were being viewed as a very essential component to Alberta's future."

A reduction in student loan interest rates from prime plus 2.5 per cent down to prime was cited as the

biggest change to directly affect students in budget 2008.

"A big thing that was important to us was the lowering of interest rates," said Mike Selnes, the chair of the Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS).

"We've been lobbying the government for years on this, and they've finally acknowledged that interest rates are too high, and it's a huge step in the right direction."

The decision to cut student loan interest rates comes largely as a result of the Government of Alberta's Affordability Policy Framework as adopted in November 2006, explained Doug Horner, Minister of Advanced Education and Technology.

"We are committed to continuing to assist students with the costs of investing in their education—their future. This includes taking initiatives like lowering student loan interest rates," Horner said.

Student loans will also undergo an annual increase of up to \$13 300 per student.

According to Phyllis Clark, Vice-President (Finance and Administration), the budget also secured current levels of spending on the institutional front by sustaining a base

six per cent increase in base operating grants, bringing this year's amount to \$86 million.

"[The reaction was] generally good, because they affirmed that they would give us six per cent base [grant] transfers for 2008–09 and we had already built our budget expecting six per cent; and they reaffirmed that for 2009–10," Clark said.

Specific benefits from this increased spending will go towards financing capital projects on campus, including the Edmonton Clinic North, the Centennial Center for Interdisciplinary Science, and general funding to cover cost escalation on existing projects.

Monies from the budget are also expected to open up more space in classrooms, especially in health and technology-related fields.

"The budgeted 2008 increase for adult learning includes \$125 million to create new seats in health care programs as well as other high demand areas such as engineering, apprenticeship, and technology programs," Horner explained.

Yet despite the overall warm reception, certain questions remained unanswered in this year's budget.

PLEASE SEE **BUDGET** • PAGE 2

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Slean continuing on

After ten years on her label, Sarah Slean talks about how her hectic life is making her metaphorically deaf

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Bass starting off

With three years of CIS experience under his belt, Dan Bass Jr now gets a shot with the Edmonton Eskimos

SPORTS, PAGE 10

THE GATEWAY

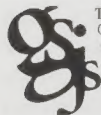
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NEWS BRIEFS

ENCANA CORPORATION FUNDS NEW U OF A SCHOLARSHIPS

As the price and demand for oil continues to rise, so too does the need for trades workers and skilled professionals working in Alberta's energy sector. In March, EnCana Corporation, an independently owned oil and gas company with headquarters in Calgary, announced a \$7.5 million contribution to the U of A to establish scholarships and create two new research chair positions in water and the environment.

The contribution will establish the EnCana Scholar Awards, worth about \$6500 for third- and fourth-year students in studies related to energy and the environment, in an effort to stimulate future employment in the province's growing energy sector.

"We did that in part to celebrate the centenary of the University and the long relationship that EnCana has had with

the U of A. We've got nearly hundreds of employees who are U of A graduates," said Gerry Protti, EnCana's executive vice-president of corporate relations, who is also a member of the U of A Board of Governors.

"That, combined with the need to get some absolutely world-class research capability on the two areas we are funding chairs, was really the driver and the support for the student and the driver behind our linking the U of A with this particular donation."

Protti went on to say that scholarships will be available to a variety of U of A students—not just those studying engineering or environmental sciences, as funding will be provided for the Faculty of Law and the School of Business, amongst other disciplines.

"It's very multidisciplinary. Students that are working on energy and environment policy or health-related issues will be eligible, so it should be a very broad availability for those scholarships," Protti said.

—Edmon Rotea, News Staff

Med students bare all to raise funds for a good cause

Univeristy of Alberta med students volunteer to pose as nude models for the Doctors and Derrieres event

CHRISTAL RAMANAUSKAS
News Writer

16 University of Alberta medical students recently posed as nude models for 21 Edmonton artists in the third annual Doctors and Derrieres event—an art auction raising funds for global health projects in support of both Change for Children (CFC) and International Health Initiatives by Alberta Medical Students (IHIMS).

Funds raised from the event, which is set to take place today, will support CFC grassroots projects in El Salvador and IHIMS trips to India and Kenya. Since its inception three years ago, Doctors and Derrieres has raised \$15 000.

Sarah Fung, a first-year medical student, explained that volunteering has served as an opportunity to explore and expand on concepts crucial to the students' profession, including health and medicine, as well as their role as health professionals. Fung has been involved in Doctors and Derrieres for about four months, serving as a student coordinator for the event and one of this year's models.

"Doctors and Derrieres is a way to kind of destigmatize the medical profession," she noted.

"A lot of times health professionals have a 'professional' image to the public, and sometimes they are always not seen as the most approachable, but they really should be: someone that is dealing with your health is someone who should be really close

to you."

Fung also emphasized the significance of the arts and sciences collaborating towards the end of health.

"When [the artistic and the scientific components of medicine] come together successfully, I think that physicians do a better job of addressing health in a holistic way; they're less inclined to sterilize the practice of medicine," she observed.

"To me, this is more representative of how people experience and assess their own health."

It's not only out of a "volunteer spirit" that the students take part in international health projects; helping to build communities also offers students a serious lesson in the importance of community and public health.

Brendan Diederichs, a first-year medical student, explained that students increasingly feel a responsibility to incorporate public health into career and student learning experiences.

"When you really look at the effectiveness of what medical work can do for people's lives, it's almost ridiculous how much more of an impact can be made on quality of life in areas like public health and international health, as compared to the cut-and-dry model of clinical medicine," he said.

Doctors and Derrieres also acts as an opportunity for students to experience the value of collaboration within their own community.

Budget lowers interest rates

But, affordable student housing remains an issue

BUDGET • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"We had the possibility of getting \$4 million in performance funding in a performance funding envelope, and they have suspended that for this year, and they're going to talk about an accessibility plan," Clark stated.

"For now it means that we won't have \$4 million that we thought that we would get. But we don't know yet [until] the discussions are done on the accessibility fund if it will come to us in different ways."

Clark also noted that the budget falls short on implementing spending measures to attract a benchmark of 500 more professors and 1500 more graduate students.

Undergraduates, on the other hand, voiced concerns about the continued

absence of more focused spending on affordable student housing. While a five per cent increase in student living allowances was addressed, Dollansky noted that student leaders remain wary of the housing situation.

"Student housing was completely ignored," he explained. "We were hoping to see some sort of acknowledgement whether it be through wording in the speech or some sort of new program that there would be incentives put in place to help stimulate new public postsecondary residence construction."

After the 2008 budget, the Ministry of Advanced Education and Technology is operating at its largest financial capacity ever, reaching a total of \$3.4 billion, or an increase of 5.5 per cent from last year.



LAUREN STIEGLITZ

TAKE IT OFF! Sarah Fung had no reservations about posing nude for this year's event.

"Whether it's a student interested in modeling, another who's willing to lend a hand during the auction, or an artist that creates beautiful works,

all of these people care about international health and about contributing to an international community," Fung said.

STREETERS

Compiled and photographed by
Kirsten Goruk and Pete Yee

As you may be aware, sixteen med students recently posed nude to raise money for Change for Children and the International Health Initiatives by Alberta Medical Students.

What cause would you pose nude for?

Leah Florean
Education IVWatson Lolce
Economics IVAlison Nicol
Physical
Education IIIRajkamal Phul
Business IV

I wouldn't be posing nude for anything. I give them a lot of credit. That takes a group of confident individuals, more confident than me I think.

Uh, cancer, I guess.

Like any cause at all? [Anything.] I'm gonna go with... breast cancer.

I don't think you need to pose nude to get attention for a cause; there are many other ways. I might do something else. [Like what?] I don't know, like maybe an extreme sport? It's more unique, like something more distinctive.

Summer employment can offer more than money to students

SCOTT FENWICK
News Staff

The end of April and exams marks the mad rush for students seeking summer employment, but employees should consider more than their paychecks when hunting around for work.

For Laura Nichol, having her job as a historical interpreter at Fort Edmonton Park gives her the chance to apply the skills she's learned as a drama student at the University of Alberta.

"It's a job anyone can find exciting," she said. "I've volunteered doing this for years and years, and now I get paid for it. It almost feels like stealing sometimes."

Nichol added that having a passion for the job is just as important as public speaking and knowing about history, given the effort needed to learn about the actual people they portray.

"It's just the desire to share these things with other people [...] to want to learn things, and to want to spend our weekends going to the archives and history museum where we can just find out more."

However, not everyone has the inclination to share history and more academic knowledge.

"Answering that one question [...] will help you better define your search," she explained.

"If you're interested in working for the government after you graduate, then you might be okay getting any sort of position that is associated with the government, so that you can develop those contacts and relationships for later on."

Likewise, higher-paying lab jobs as a research assistant may not be the best option for science students. Karin Dowling, director of human resources for the Telus World of Science, said that, unlike students working in labs, their gallery interpreters get to share their knowledge with others.

"Nowhere can you work in a unique building such as this," she said. "With a lab, you're not having that one-on-one experience."

According to Laura Manuel, Promotions Coordinator for the University's Career and Placement Services (CaPS), it's important for students to ask themselves why they're getting a summer job. That sometimes students may have to compromise on pay to get good experience. Robert Smethurst, a high-school student who works at the World of Science, agrees with this sentiment. In the past year, he has worked as a gallery interpreter



ALYSSA SHARIFF

THE GOOD OL' DAYS Nicol combines her passion for acting with a summer job.

and customer service representative. In his job, Smethurst helps visitors understand exhibits and conduct demonstrations.

"One summer job might be a good fit for somebody and it might be a terrible fit for someone else."

LAURA MANUEL
PROMOTIONS COORDINATOR FOR CAPS

"It's so much fun dealing with the little kids and showing them the cool intrigues of science, and watching their eyes light up. The fun factor is huge."

However, when it comes to competing for jobs after graduation, employment at labs or offices may be better for students in the long run. According to Carrie Stransky, a recruitment coordi-

nator for Epcor, office jobs are equally as good for students in giving the opportunity for learning their field of study.

"The majority of university graduates will apply for jobs in their discipline, which are most likely to be in an office setting," she explained in an email to the Gateway. "To already have experience and understanding of office dynamics can certainly give you an edge over the competition."

Ultimately, though, Manuel warns that the right summer job for any student depends largely on what their interests are and what they're planning to do after graduation.

"One summer job might be a good fit for somebody and it might be a terrible fit for someone else," she said. "In being very open to different kinds of experiences and pursuing your interests, no matter what, you're going to get a good picture of what you want to be doing later on [...] and you can use all those things when you graduate."

Campbell's PM rap lets her speak her mind

CAMPBELL • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Dealing with difficult issues such as the rape shield, gun control, abortion, and gay rights, Campbell remembers her commitment to consulting with those constituents who were directly affected by government decisions. She also spoke of her relationships with other politicians.

"One of the things I learned was how important it is to consult and bring your colleagues in, and listen with respect. The ability to lose an argument gracefully truly is a key part of the democratic mindset," Campbell said.

The other central topic of conversation, one that was expected to arise, was the role of women in politics today.

Campbell recalled a time when she

took the phrase "you're the smartest girl I know" as a compliment, not realizing that being smart and a girl at the same time should be nothing out of the ordinary. She has since learned the implication behind those biased statements.

"We have to be conscious of it. It's not a bad thing, it's human to have these feelings. [...] We're part of a culture that says 'women don't lead,'" Campbell observed.

She went on to say that current politics remain uneven in terms of gender, but that women like Hillary Clinton are changing the status quo. Even without a win, Campbell feels that Clinton's campaign has done some good in raising awareness of the issue.


Since her time in office, Campbell

has been busy with a number of commitments, including her role in 2002–03 as acting president of the Club of Madrid, an organization that specifically employs the use of peer counseling from former leaders to current ones. She feels that the candid nature of previous leaders makes the current ones interested in hearing about and learning from the past.

"Even in politics, when you're cooked, you're not necessarily done," Campbell said with a smile.


She hasn't given up on the idea that women are just as capable of leading, and with ideas like two-member constituencies floating around, she holds out hope for change.

"I don't see another woman waiting in the wings, but I don't think it's impossible."



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Anaesthetics study may lead to new understanding of sleep patterns

Recent research conducted at the University of Alberta is testing the effects of ethyl carbamate on rats. During periods of study, the anesthetic demonstrated that it was able to create a full spectrum of the natural sleep cycle, including rapid-eye movement

BRYAN SAUNDERS
News Staff

According to the latest figures from Statistics Canada, Canadians spend about 95 billion hours a year counting sheep. It seems paradoxical, then, that scientists know so little about an activity as popular as sleep. The fact is, there's still much debate over why we need our daily dose of forty winks.

However, ongoing research at the University of Alberta is poised to answer this question. According to Dr Clayton Dickson, an associate professor of psychology, physiology, and neuroscience, an anaesthetic called ethyl carbamate (or urethane) may hold the key to answering many of the fundamental questions about snoozing that remain a mystery to this day. It may also pave the way for the development of improved sleeping medications.

"Basically, my lab is interested in brain rhythms, and we studied these in rats [anaesthetized with ethyl carbamate]," Dickson explained. "What we found is that over very long periods of recording, we saw these spontaneous changes in brain state that look very similar to the types of state changes that you see in natural sleep."

This is exciting, Dickson pointed out, because it's the first anaesthetic that's been demonstrated to allow the full spectrum of sleep—including the rapid-eye movement (REM) stage—to occur. Sleep medications currently promote only the slow-wave stage of sleep. Furthermore, they tend to be addictive and the person taking them tends to still

feel drowsy in the morning.

"I guess the real problem with the [current] sleep meds is that if you don't allow your brain to naturally go through all these cycles, then really what you're missing is the whole idea of sleep," Dickson elaborated.

Each stage of sleep is important, because it's thought that all the different steps, or perhaps the transitions between them, are necessary for proper learning and memory formation to occur.

"We saw these spontaneous changes in brain state that look very similar to the types of state changes that you see in natural sleep."

DR CLAYTON DICKSON
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AT THE U OF A

That said, don't expect ethyl carbamate to make an appearance on pharmacy shelves any time soon. Advancements in testing have shown that the drug is metabolized too slowly to ever be used safely as a sleep aid in humans.

However, the fact that the chemical seems to be able to turn on the switch responsible for all of the stages of a natural slumber in rats, could help identify where this switch is and how to activate it in humans. Identifying the mechanism that controls brain

waves could lead to the development of better sleep medications and could even help explain altered brain states, Dickson speculated.

"There are monks who can put themselves into these transcendental states. What they do, is they basically alter their brain rhythms," Dickson stated.

"So it's very suggestive that they obviously have very good control over their particular brain state. And if they can get rested after this type of meditation, it does suggest that they're doing something that's natural."

He added that it might eventually shed light on the basis of hypnosis and even some very strange medical cases involving comatose patients.

"The whole coma discussion [is around] the fact that you can be recording brain waves and saying 'This person is in a vegetative state,' and then find out [afterwards] that that person has come out of the coma. And they'll tell you, 'No, no, I was awake the whole time.' And they can give you evidence of the types of stimulation; they can tell you stories from what happened while they were in a coma," Dickson marveled.

One of the surprising things about most anaesthetics, Dickson added, is that it's not really clear how they work. With this new research, that could change.

"[Anaesthetics] knock people out, but they can do so in a variety of different ways. Not only are we poised to actually find out something more about natural sleep, but, potentially, we could figure out a lot more about anaesthetics and their mode of action."



STEFFIROSSKOPF

TO SLEEP, PERCHANCE TO DREAM Dr Clayton Dickson and his lab's research may uncover new information about the effects of anaesthetics and sleep aids.

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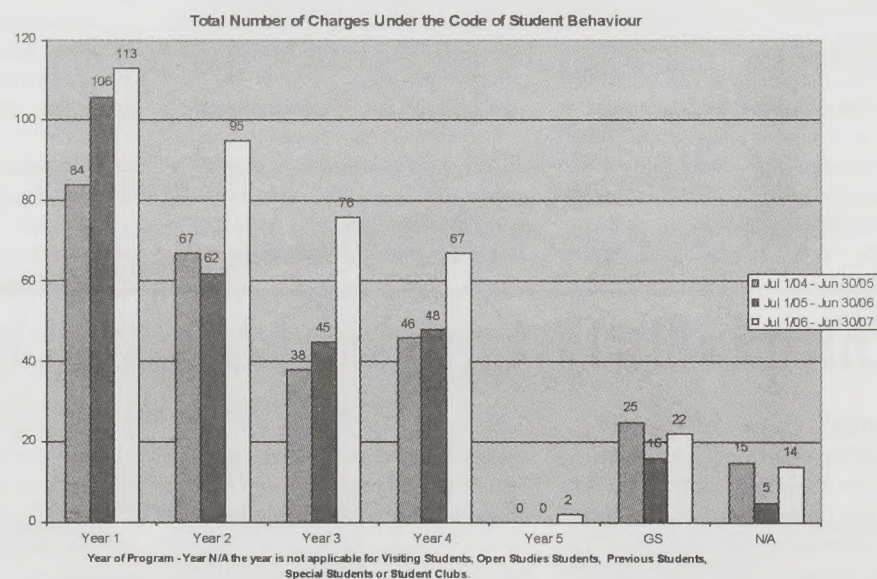
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Provided on behalf of the
GFC Campus Law Review Committee (CLRC).

City favours petty fines over justice

LATELY, THE PRIORITIES OF THOSE RESPONSIBLE for what passes for law enforcement in Edmonton have been seriously dubious.

The police response to the recent death in the university area leaves the public with far more questions than answers. On 26 April, a pool of blood and a pair of shoes were found ten blocks away from a shoeless and dying Alex Pinzauti. The wife of the man who discovered the body noted that Pinzauti's socks were clean despite the muddy ground, and speculated that he may have been dumped in that location.

An EPS spokesperson initially stated that Pinzauti had been involved in a fight prior to his passing, and that the death was considered suspicious. A few days later, a "non-criminal" ruling concerning his demise was unceremoniously dumped out immediately after a preliminary autopsy was conducted. I assume that something crucial has not yet been made public, but this certainly isn't the kind of thorough and competent investigation that leaves the public without any remaining doubts.

Details regarding the obvious connection between the body and the location of the blood and shoes were not released as a result of the non-criminal ruling. Given that the senior examiner of the medical examiner's office has stated that the final cause of death is pending further lab tests that will take three to four months, it's interesting that the police were able to determine that the death was non-criminal so quickly.

Apparently, this suspicious death isn't a serious matter for authorities, but jaywalking is a much graver concern. Last month, the city of Edmonton increased the fine for jaywalking from \$40 to a whopping \$250 a ticket. Although officials claim that this will lower the number of pedestrian deaths in the city, it's clearly a shameless cash-grab—much like the speed traps and photo radar vans that have spread throughout this city like a cancer.

They say "it's for safety's sake," but they aren't fooling anyone. They also made this same claim to justify the use of red light cameras, which actually have been suggested to dramatically increase the rate of rear-end collisions at intersections. And while jaywalking tickets might not increase deaths or injury, they probably won't serve as a deterrent either. People cross the street because it's convenient and they don't think that anyone with a badge is looking—the thought that a cop might possibly be hiding in a bush or watching through a spy satellite isn't serious enough to make anyone walk a strenuous extra block.

In keeping with the trend of misplaced priorities in law enforcement, the Edmonton police commission is asking for a second helicopter, which would set taxpayers back \$2 million, as well as constant maintenance costs. In order to push for this expenditure, the EPS has released a number of exaggerated statistics related to Air-1, directly crediting it with enabling the arrest of hundreds of suspects who otherwise "may have" evaded capture. That essentially translates into "Air-1 has loosely been involved in this many incidents."

If Air-1 is so overwhelmed with call-ups, I have to wonder why it's used to disperse so many underage drinking parties. Maybe the need for a second helicopter could be alleviated by simply reserving Air-1 for appropriate circumstances. The EPS have even asserted that there had only been one complaint about the noise from the chopper, which is simply ridiculous, as numerous citizens spoke out afterwards to claim that they had complained earlier.

This money would be better spent putting more officers on the street and covering problem areas, but the EPS seems far more concerned with apprehension after-the-fact than crime prevention.

Edmonton is steadily building up a reputation as one of the most dangerous and crime-prone cities in the country, and yet it seems that the EPS can constantly spare half-a-dozen officers to flag down speeders a block away from my home. The city is simply far more concerned about fattening their coffers with excessive fines from the pockets of average Joes than with any legitimate law enforcement, and it breeds resentment and frustration from the citizens subjected to it.

CODY CIVIERO
Opinion Editor



CODY CIVIERO

LETTERS FROM THE ARCHIVES

Calling all happily incestual women

In our psychiatric practise we have treated a number of patients with a history of incest. In many of these cases, emotional disturbance didn't develop until the illicit sexual activity became know outside the family. This fact has led us to consider the possibility that the psychic trauma wasn't the result of incest but of improper management.

In an attempt to establish more adequate guidelines, we are exploring the pasts of mentally stable persons. Will you and your readers help us? We need anonymous autobiographies from women who are leading happy and rewarding lives in spite of having experienced incest. We will appreciate all information to encourage as much detail as possible.

Thank you.

JOHN BISHOP, MD
16 November, 1971

Most pretentious letter in Gateway history

Concerning the Socialist-Communist comments on the alleged Hungarian situation, their reactions are not hard to understand. If the charges are true, their discomfiture, and hence their pique, is obvious. If the charges are false, it must be highly discouraging for

them to see infringement on their hithero unchallenged monopoly on rumor, innuendo, distortion, and falsehood.

JM ASPLUND
4 December, 1959

Gulf War protest is Saddam insane

The Sixties return to us once again as a result of the war in the Persian Gulf. Unfortunately, "turning on, tuning in, and dropping out" won't stop the aggression that Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussien has unleashed on Kuwait.

The "peaceniks" have condemned the United States and Canda for their role in the Gulf, and are demanding removal of their troops. These people, however, need to get jobs so they can afford to buy a TV or a newspaper and find out that if they want to remove someone from the Gulf they will have to remove the United Nations because it's not just the US and Canada in the Gulf. Britain, Italy, Saudi Arabia, and the other member states called on by the UN have a presence in the Gulf. The "peaceniks" don't call for the removal of these troops.

The peace activists seem to have no respect whatsoever for Prime Minister Mulroney or President Bush. They refer to them as Bush and Mulroney. These men have earned a title, and out of respect for their office, even if you have no respect for the man you should refer to them properly. You don't address the Queen as "Mount Batten Windsor."

If any of you peace activists have pulled the hair out of your eyes and have learned to read, I hope you realize that the reason you're able to protest is that our veterans around the globe fought for your rights. Some protest is fine but don't over do it and kick our forces in the Gulf in the teeth.

DAVID A POLLARD
24 January, 1991

Pedophilia isn't exactly a barrel of laughs

I join the Gateway editorial staff in expressing my horror at the reprehensible article entitled "Pediophiliology," which appeared in the Engineering paper, Godiva, this week. Not only is pornography advocating violence against women rampant in our society today, but now some of our fellow students have seen fit to make little girls the target of sadistic sexual abuse for "the engineer who is seeking an adventure in new and unusual challenges."

Especially abhorrent is the implied suggestion that any child who is forced to participate in the "adventure" will actually come to enjoy herself, her "innocent little face" evincing only "curiosity and surprise" as a flow of semen is ejaculated onto it. Her eyes will remain glued to those of her conqueror, supposedly in awe and adoration of him and in thankfulness for the great gift which has been bestowed upon her.

Unfortunately, this image of females masochistically enjoying

their victimization is a pervasive one in our society and one not easily dispelled, especially when trashy articles such as "Pediophiliology" are allowed to be printed—all in the spirit of good, clean fun, of course.

Realistically, how many eight-year-old girls would not react in terror and repulsion if confronted with a situation as portrayed in the article?

I could go on ad nauseum (and I must say that article in question did nauseate me!) about the humourless sexism and perversion portrayed in "Pediophiliology."

ANDREA SEALE
20 January, 1981

From the Archives is a semi-regular feature where the Gateway runs historical letters that we feel are of particular importance—or are just really hilarious.

Letters to the editor can be sent to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca.

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous, or otherwise hateful in nature. The Gateway also reserves the right to publish letters online.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the author's name, program, year of study and student identification number to be considered for publication.

Be sure to include a brief explanation of why cake is clearly superior to pie. This office is infested with tasteless pie lovers who need to be educated on what constitutes a real dessert.

Big oil, small social conscience

Dead ducks are just another brick in the wall of irresponsible development



TOM
WAGNER

Last week, over 500 ducks were trapped on a poisonous tailing pond owned by Syncrude and later died, sinking to the bottom of the pool of toxic waste. This week, more birds were found on a pond owned by ConocoPhillips, suggesting that this type of environmental disaster is not an isolated incident.

Although we should be shocked by this latest event, the real surprise to anyone with even a passing interest in oil sands development in Alberta is that the death of these ducks has made the news around the world. Sadly, it's not even the worst environmental disaster caused by uncontrolled development.

While the deaths of a few waterfowl have been widely publicized, few Albertans are aware of the true destruction of oil sands development.

No headlines have been printed outlining the skyrocketing cancer rates in the community of Fort Chipewyan, or that the very same toxic tailing ponds that killed the ducks are so large that they can be seen from space. More disturbingly, there's no proven method to clean up these ever-growing pernicious pools.

The oil companies aren't bankrupt...

in ongoing environmental damage—after all, they're making billions of dollars off of uncontrolled and unsustainable development. Even worse, they haven't performed their due diligence to protect the environment. For example, the ducks were able to land on the pond because protective measures such as sonic cannons to scare them away were not in place.

However, whether by incompetence or intentional government policy, the largest share of the blame must be placed upon the Alberta government. Nothing has changed since Ralph Klein declared that the government had no plan to control oil sands development—a fact which has led to environmental destruction like the deaths of hundreds of waterfowl last week. In fact, this latest incident wasn't reported by government wildlife officers, but an anonymous tip. Without this information, it's likely that this would not have made the news or reached the attention of the government.

Under Alberta's current environmental protection laws, the worst punishment Syncrude faces is a \$1 million fine. Considering the huge amount of money that these oil companies pull in, this is paramount to the government flatly refusing to do anything to alleviate the situation. Indeed, it's likely that it would cost the company more to ensure environmental compliance than if they risked getting fined.

Apparently, the only person unaware of the shocking irony of

the situation is our own premier, Ed Stelmach, who has repeatedly vowed to hold Syncrude accountable for this latest incident. Of course, this just highlights the priorities of the current government, who are far more interested in saving face and helping their friends in big business than actually making effective changes for the benefit of all Albertans.

Unfortunately for the government, the death of these ducks came just as it announced a \$25 million plan to promote Alberta and oil sands development around the world, rebranding it as sustainable and environmentally friendly. Premier Stelmach even went so far as to claim it was necessary to improve Alberta's image because it had been tarnished by the big, bad, environmental lobby groups such as Greenpeace.

The problem now is that this recent scandal demonstrates just how environmentally unaccountable and backwards the current government is, a fact that the environmental groups have been proclaiming all along.

It's likely that Syncrude will be fined the full amount allowable under current laws. The story is far too high-profile for the government to do nothing. That said, if the thought counts for anything, the punishment won't be as a result of the government's concern for the environment, but rather a last ditch effort to save face. As a result, the punishment is only a band-aid to cover the problem. Real changes are needed to prevent environmental disasters like this from ever happening again.

China only invites criticism by hosting Olympic Games



SCOTT
FENWICK

In response to numerous protests around the world against China's human rights record and its hosting of the 2008 Olympic Games, many Olympic officials and commentators have repeated that the Games are above politics.

There's one problem with this suggestion: the Olympics can never be above politics because they are political by their very nature. This truth makes for an enormous contradiction at the heart of the Olympic movement.

For example, the Olympic Charter reads, "The Olympic Games are competitions between athletes in individual or team events and not between countries." This has never been true in practice. Our athletes march under flags while we sing our national anthems and keep medal counts according to nation, directly contradicting the Charter.

While there are obvious examples of politics hurting the Olympic athletes—such as the boycotts of the Moscow games in 1980 and Los Angeles in 1984—politics run more deeply in the Olympic movement than that.

Of note is the lighting of the Olympic flame during the 2002 Winter Games in Salt Lake City by members of the 1980 US Olympic Hockey Team. During the 1980 winter Olympics, the Americans

beat the Soviets to win Olympic gold, winning another battle of the Cold War.

Going further back to 1964, when Tokyo hosted the Games, the athlete who lit the Olympic flame was born on 6 August, 1945. That's the same day an atomic bomb was dropped over his hometown of Hiroshima.

Since nations are represented at the Olympics, host countries use it as a public relations tool to promote their politics, culture, and trade. This is why activist groups have moved to put China's human rights record at the forefront of the world's attention.

In fact, without the Olympics, chances are that China's role in Tibet wouldn't be receiving the attention that it is. For activists, the opportunity was too good to pass up.

Likewise, Canada may have to face its own domestic social problems in the lead-up to the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver.

Recently, Phil Fontaine, the head of the Assembly of First Nations, said that Native leaders intend to use the opportunity to draw attention to Aboriginal poverty. Vancouver-area anti-poverty groups also intend to employ the attention that the Games garner for their cause.

Unfortunately, governments would have no incentive to invest in the Olympics if the competition weren't mired in politics. The Olympic Movement simply has too much to lose if what is so obviously true is acknowledged. As a result, the Games will always be tainted with political manoeuvring.

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The Baroness reveals Slean's melancholy, soulful mood

The Ontario-born singer-songwriter discusses the pressure of recording an album in Paris and being prepared to write her finals



musicpreview

Sarah Slean

With Royal Wood

Thursday, 8 May at 7:30pm

Winspear Centre (9720 102 Avenue)

PAUL BLINOV

Arts & Entertainment Staff

It's taken a long time to bring Sarah Slean back to where she started. After ten years, albums, and countless hours of hitting the keys on tour, she's back at school, juggling both the life of a student—finishing the music and philosophy degree she started at the University of Toronto before her career took her elsewhere—and the responsibilities of a major label recording artist gearing up for a nationwide tour in support of her recently unleashed fifth studio album *The Baroness*. Even Slean admits that it's a tricky double-bill to fill.

"I had a final today," she telephonically admits on a calm April afternoon. "It was alright; but [right now] it is a little bit like too many crescendos at one point in the symphony—I'm a little bit deaf. Life seems to do that to me: when it rains, it pours, and everything happens simultaneously. But I think I'm ready for it. I feel really strong, and clear, and ready to play again."

But with exams now behind her, Slean's realigning her split-focus solely onto her music-making, probably to the delight of Warner Records. She's spent a decade on the label, and although a major record company carries a certain stigma for artists, Slean's extensive hours clocked in the Warner roster haven't seen her bowing to any whims she disagrees with.

"If they started telling me how to run my life, they'd have some problems. And I think they

know that," she laughs. "I think I'm one of the only recording artists I know that has been with a major for over ten years. I can't believe it, especially in this day and age. They've been really respectful of my intellectual aims and my artistic aims. They've just been really hands off, and that kind of trust is hard to find."

Letting Slean take her own reins is ideal for the performer's notoriously nomadic writing habits. She set up camp in a tiny log cabin before writing 2004's *Day One*, and, more recently, exiled herself to Paris in preparation for *The Baroness*. According to Slean, getting away from everything she knows prevents her writing from becoming an automatic uninspired experience.

"Whenever I get in a rut, or feel myself becoming patterned in my behaviour or in my thoughts, I fool myself back to ignorance," she explains. "I took myself all out of that and threw myself into the unknown. When you do that, you find out all sorts of interesting new stuff about yourself."

Paris taught her a melancholic lesson—one that colours *The Baroness* in a bluer hue than her other works. But that time abroad reinvigorated her own art, and now, back on home soil with family and friends, she's discovered through her isolation how much the affection from people around her influences her creativity.

"I really found out in Paris what loneliness was all about, and that you actually do need your family really badly, and you do need your friends, and love is important," Slean says. "You can't be in love with art and only art. You gotta spread that love around, or else the art is meaningless. Love informs art; the human experience informs art, and if it doesn't, then it's simply masturbation art, or art for art's sake—that, I'm not particularly interested in. The best art reflects the human condition, and I think that can only happen from people that are deeply engaged in it."

Mario Kart nailed by blue shell at finish line

gamereview

Mario Kart Wii

Developed and published by Nintendo

Available on Nintendo Wii

MIKE KENDRICK

Editor-in-Chief

With a current library that's been nothing short of disappointing, the release of a worthwhile game for the Wii has been a rare occurrence that's typically dominated by Nintendo's first-party games. While the kids have a plethora of YTV-licensed shovelware titles, the Wii hasn't necessarily offered much in the way of a truly "good" game unless it's been released by Mr. Miyamoto's team themselves. *Twilight Princess*, *Super Mario Galaxy*, and *Super Smash Brothers Brawl* have all been the system's main contenders, and sold effectively as hit titles.

With this sort of precedent, and a successful franchise supporting it, one would expect *Mario Kart Wii* to live up to all the hype. Unfortunately, it's one of Nintendo's first true misses.

Mario Kart Wii isn't revolutionary, but it still brings a handful of new features to the table. Among the most significant additions are the increase from a traditional eight-man race to a twelve-kart total, motorbikes, and online multiplayer support that actually works. At first glance, it may seem like a great idea to throw four additional racers into the fray, but in reality, it just makes the whole ordeal far too complicated.

Although the *Mario Kart* series has always been about balance, taking a "first can be last, last can be first" setup, all the extra mayhem just becomes more frustrating. Weapon balance has been tipped too far in favour of those in last

place, and it's not uncommon to be hit with up to four leader-seeking shells in a single lap—often seconds away from the finish line. There's much less emphasis on skill, and it's almost as though the veterans are being punished for their proficiency.

To its credit, *Mario Kart Wii* is one of the first games for the system to get online multiplayer right. The match-making system is intuitive and easy to use, giving players the option to face off against friends, regional, or worldwide opponents. Even at launch, there were no lag or latency issues, and being packaged with a channel to advertise tournaments and challenges adds an element of human competition to the game.

It's a bit frustrating, however, that Nintendo's enduring "family-friendly" nature has been their excuse for the game's lack of voice chat—even with friends. But since the game faces little competition amongst other Wii titles that enable online play, it's a bit like Jeff Gordon finishing first place in a junior soap box derby.

Among its biggest (apparent) selling points is the Wii Wheel, Nintendo's latest hunk of plastic to justify its often-underused motion controls. While it's not nearly as bad as many critics in the gaming community thought it would be prior to launch, it still certainly lacks the precision of the reliable Wiimote-and-Nunchuk combo. The game's ultra-simplified menus also seem like another tactic in Nintendo's strategy

of approachability, but it just comes off as a lazy, almost-sterile afterthought. Credit to Nintendo for trying to draw the whole family into the game with its clever gimmicks, but it's just another example of a watered-down franchise that's trying just a little too hard to appeal to the casual crowd.



Downey Jr turns to steel to save mankind, comic flicks

Marvel teams up with the veteran actor and Jon Favreau for one of the most stylized and well-executed superhero films in years

filmreview

Iron Man

Directed by Jon Favreau

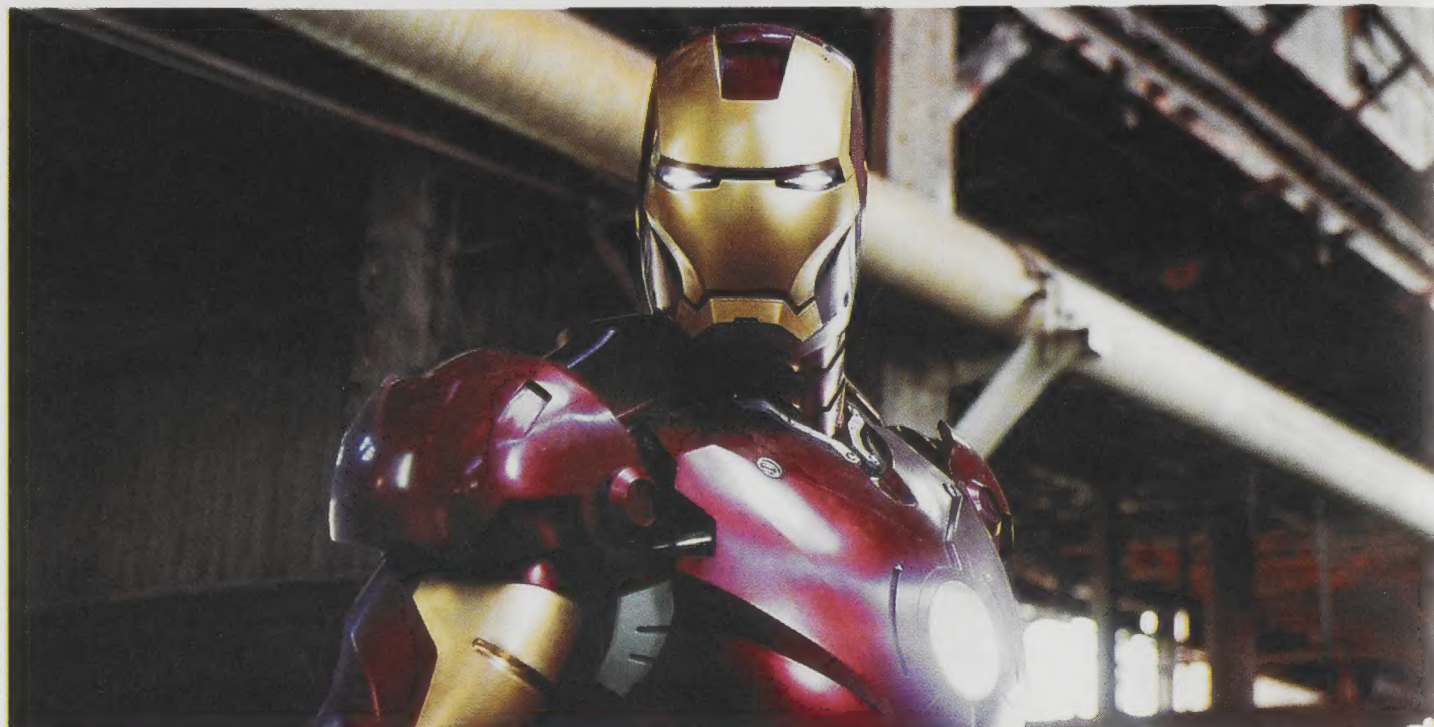
Starring Robert Downey Jr, Jeff Bridges, and Gwyneth Paltrow

JONN KMECH
Arts & Entertainment Editor

The casting of Robert Downey Jr as Iron Man and the early photos of the wicked-badass suit design created an unusual conundrum for die-hard, Internet-savvy, comic book fans: what to worry about? Usually, the announcement of which actor has signed on to play whatever superhero is met with ridicule and derision by fans everywhere as the decision that will ruin a series; but in Downey Jr, there exists an accomplished and acclaimed actor who can easily carry a franchise, suiting up in one of the sexiest metal exoskeletons ever seen in a live-action comic movie. Even the skeptical began to take note.

Thankfully, there's nothing for them to fear. *Iron Man* is one of those rare entities that actually lives up to its gargantuan hype, to the extent that it could be called the best comic adaptation since the second Spider-Man film.

Downey Jr plays Tony Stark, a genius billionaire industrialist whose company, Stark Industries, is one of the world's leading weapons manufacturers. After his convoy is ambushed by insurgents in Afghanistan—who are using his weapons to terrorize the population—Stark is forced to build the rebels his latest rocket prototype. Hatching his own plan, Stark constructs a crude metal suit and battles his way out, only to return to America with a change of conscience. Determined to upgrade the suit and get out of the weapons business to help prevent future strife, Stark goes head to head with his business partner, mentor, and menacing bearded guy Obadiah Stane (Jeff Bridges).



While he seemed like an oddball choice to pilot a blockbuster comic-book movie, director Jon Favreau—whose résumé behind the camera is filled with whimsical fare such as *Zathura* and *Elf*—more than delivers the goods, creating a heavy film that thankfully never quite takes itself too seriously. While Favreau alone can't quite instill the emotional depth that Raimi was able to achieve in the Spiderman films (well, at least the first two), he's luckily got a talented cast to lean on.

Downey Jr clearly loved his role, and his portrayal of Stark as a smug, charismatic wiseacre is entertaining by itself, though his full theatrical range really shows after Stark's change of heart. He maintains the character's sense of humour even while undergoing the tortured reflection on his

carefree past as an accomplice to death, creating a multilayered character that audiences can remain intrigued with for multiple sequels. Bridges as the gruff, maniacal Stane and Gwyneth Paltrow as Stark's shy restrained assistant/love interest also do an amiable job supporting Downey Jr.

The special effect teams of Stan Winston Studios and Industrial Light and Magic push the limits of what you thought was possible once again, creating thrills both brilliant and glee-inducing. Everything—from the sleek Iron Man outfit, to the frenetic visual flying effects, down to the sound design—are all close to perfect.

Despite all the positives, the film isn't without a few minor faults. Suffering slightly from franchise-starter-syndrome, the action does lag a bit in points while Favreau establishes the

characters and plot to the non-comic book crowd. Stane's character progression also may be a little steep to be wholly believable, and the final boss battle isn't as captivating as one might hope. And as is common with introductory films, it does take a while before Stark puts on the final suit.

Regardless, your face will be in widespread grin mode when it finally happens and remains that way permanently. While everything about the movie screams "summer Hollywood blockbuster," it never feels cheesy or over-the-top despite the humour and has more to offer than your average action thriller. Even though the gigantic opening weekend has all but guaranteed further installments, *Iron Man* is successful as a cinematic endeavour as well and its prospects as the beginning of a new series shouldn't leave fans with any concerns.

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The Elephant Man disfigures perspectives

Studio Theatre creates a modern, prosthetic-free take on this tale of a deformed, yet beautiful soul

theatrepreview

The Elephant Man

University of Alberta Studio Theatre
Written by Bernard Pomerance
Directed by Michael Peng
Starring Frank Zotter and George Szilagyi
Runs 15–24 May at 7:30pm
Timms Centre for the Arts

EDMON ROTEA
Arts & Entertainment Staff

This spring, Studio Theatre will be producing *The Elephant Man*, a tale that’s not just about a freak of nature, but a story of beauty and the human condition.

The Elephant Man is based on the true story about John (Joseph) Merrick, a drastically deformed man, and the young surgeon Frederick Treves who befriends Merrick and saves him from an exploitative and demeaning circus freak show.

While the play has been adapted from the script of Bernard Pomerance’s 1977 award-winning play, director Michael Peng hopes to deviate away from the play’s conventional Victorian setting and give the upcoming production a more contemporary appeal.

“I wanted to have a sense that the play was historical without it being Victorian, so we know that we are telling a story that has some age to it,” explained Peng as he showcased various costume designs of the 1930s-style formal wear that will be worn during the show’s performance. “We know that we are not absolutely in 2008, but we are not in Victorian England either.”

Besides the unique contemporary style, one notable aspect of the production is the strong theatrical conceit. No prosthetic make-up will be worn by actor Frank Zotter, who will be

portraying Victorian England’s most famous deformed celebrity. Peng explained that it will be up to the audiences to imagine Merrick’s deformities, which will be conveyed through the use of narrative and spoken dialogue rather than through visual means.

“Thematically, the play is very much about Merrick, the Elephant Man, being a mirror—a mirror for others to see what they like and don’t like about themselves,” Peng noted. “If there was prosthetics on stage, I think [the play] would be all about whether or not it was believable. It would be all about that as opposed to the story itself.”

“At the start of this play, there is a one page paragraph that the author writes; ‘Warning: the actor playing the Elephant Man—if they have a history of back problems, they should probably think twice about doing it.’”

FRANK ZOTTER
ACTOR, THE ELEPHANT MAN

While convincing audiences to imagine Merrick’s deformities may be a challenge, another difficult task is playing the man himself. Zotter, who prepared for the title role by reading books, looking at historical pictures, and doing in-depth research about Merrick’s personal life, divulged the challenges of playing a historical figure who experienced considerable emotional and physical adversity in his life.

“At the start of this play, there is a one page paragraph that the author writes; ‘Warning: the

actor playing the Elephant Man—if they have a history of back problems, they should probably think twice about doing it.’ You cannot deny the fact that it’s a challenge to the body to play this role. I am imbuing him physically,” Zotter said, as he explained how he stylized his character’s deformity through his own physicality and onstage movements.

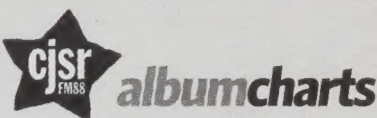
“The weight of my head, the curvature of my spine, the tumors, and the growths on the arm are going to give [my body] a weight that I have to work with. My speech is slurred because half of my face is affected. I have to constantly remember the weight of my head, because it is full of extra bone growth and skin growth,” Zotter noted.

Despite Merrick’s frightening disfigurement, many characters look beyond his physical appearance to discover his hidden talents and inner beauty. *The Elephant Man* is also a play about change in perspectives of human nature, at least according to actor George Szilagyi who portrays Frederick Treves, Merrick’s closest friend.

“Treves, in a way, represents the mainstream audience point of view,” Szilagyi noted. “His journey is from the rational perspective to really quite deep questions about the nature of humanity, the nature of society in expressing humanity—questions that disturb him because they shake his rational English world.”

Like the lasting impact Merrick’s personality has on the play’s characters, the life of the Elephant Man has made just as much of an impression on the performance’s cast members, including the actor who portrays him.

“The more research I did, the more respect I had for who he became, because he never took the easy route. He never succumbed to the ridicule or gave in,” Zotter reflected. “He was able to sustain this rich imagination and this beautiful hope of mankind. It just inspires me—I wish I could be like that.”



FOR THE WEEK ENDING
TUESDAY, 6 MAY

- 1. TICKLEY FEATHER**
Tickley Feather
(Paw Tracks)
- 2. NICK CAVE AND THE BAD SEEDS**
Dig, Lazarus, Dig!!!
(Anti-)
- 3. THE FERRIS WHEEL**
The Ferris Wheel
(Independent)
- 4. SECRET FIRES**
I Only Want What I Can't See
(Independent)
- 5. OLDFOLKS HOME**
We Are The Feeding Line
(Independent)
- 6. PATTERN IS MOVEMENT**
All Together
(Hometapes)
- 7. BELLEVUE**
The Road to Recovery
(Independent)
- 8. NO AGE**
Nouns
(Sub Pop)
- 9. FLIGHT OF THE CONCHORDS**
Flight of the Conchords
(Sub Pop)
- 10. ACRES OF LIONS**
Acres of Lions
(Lost Records)

Give me Liberty City or give me death—a lot of death

Rockstar’s latest gangster opera immerses gamers in a violent and profoundly entertaining quest to achieve the American Dream

gamereview

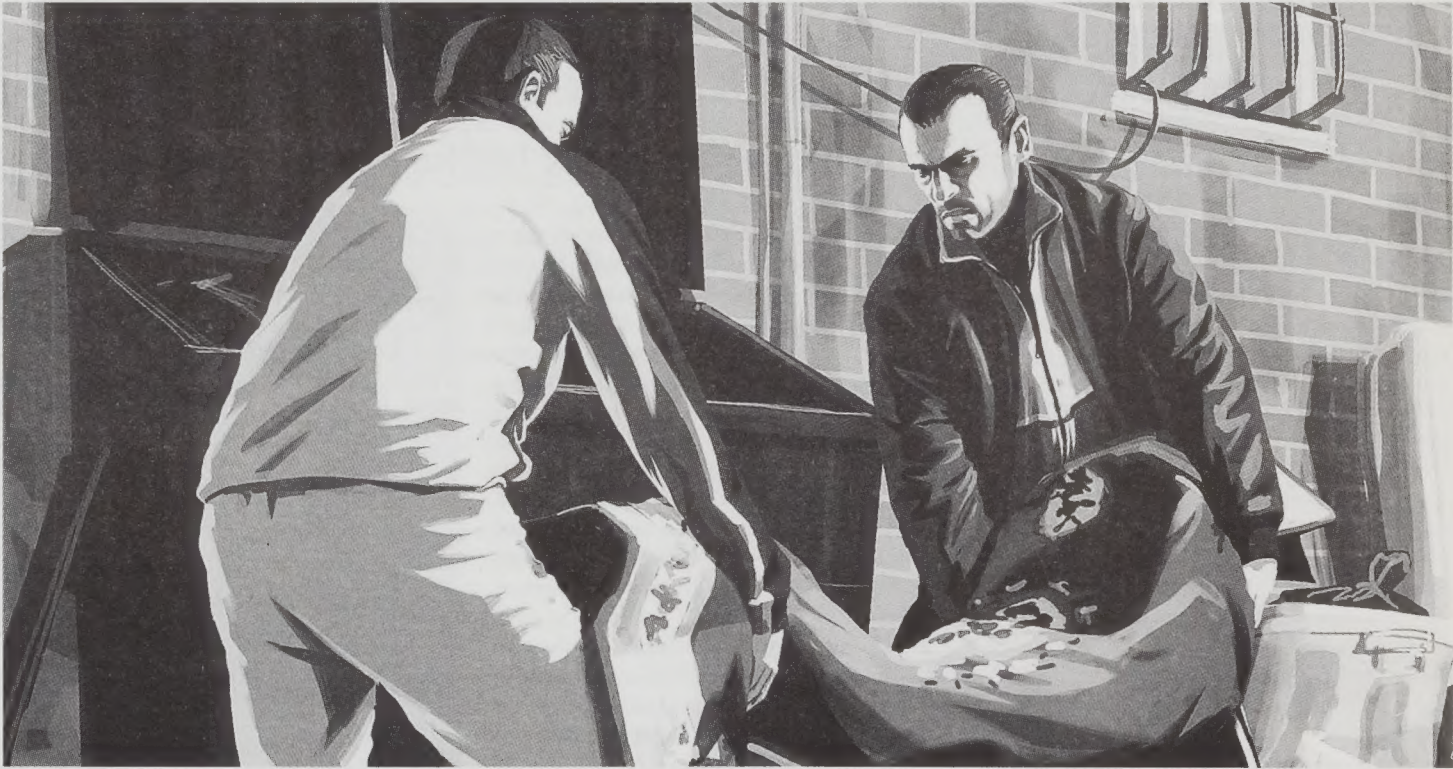
Grand Theft Auto IV

Developed by Rockstar North
Published by Rockstar Games
Available on Xbox 360 and Playstation 3

RAMIN OSTAD
Arts & Entertainment Staff

After six iterations, the *Grand Theft Auto* series has come a long way from its first meager splash into the third dimension in 2001. Each version gave subtle improvements to the formula that developer Rockstar created, but the series has never quite made the leap from evolution to revolution, becoming all too comfortable in the very genre they created. *Grand Theft Auto IV*, however, is something rather unexpected. Sure, Rockstar’s made all of the requisite improvements in melee combat, gunplay, and graphics that one expects with the latest bout of sequelitis. But this time around, Rockstar has designed a game that is so much more than just the sum of its parts, creating something you don’t really see in a game of this type: a society.

It all starts with character. Your predetermined avatar is named Niko Bellic, a literally fresh-off-the-boat illegal immigrant from Serbia pursuing the dual American dreams of quick money and mass multimedia consumption in the most vibrant, genuine, and distinct environment in console videogame history—Liberty City. The town itself is a dream to behold; it’s very rare that a game would compel me to sit through a ten minute cab ride just so I can take in all the sights and sounds of a virtual world. The people who inhabit this town all feel right, too, and behave in human ways thanks to the employment of the Euphoria engine, an Oxford-made physics system that gives characters their own dynamic muscles



and nervous systems. From a technical standpoint, it may not look as gorgeous as it could, but the shape and design of it all make it feel so authentic.

That authenticity trickles into Niko as well. Unlike his predecessors, *GTA IV*’s protagonist is one deep cat. He’s got a serious past, a lot of self-loathing, and a penchant for vengeance that isn’t just about some meager gang beef. He may not be a very subtle character, but he has just as many layers as a ripe onion. This is made even more apparent through the numerous interpersonal relationships you develop along your path. Whereas previous games made characters forgettable as soon as you were done killing people for them, *GTA IV* keeps

you in contact with almost everyone you meet through a handy little device called a cellphone. As you meet people their contact info is added to your phone, and you can call or text each other up to go for dinner, get drunk off your ass, or just shoot the shit.

If, instead, you want to be a shut-in, you can also chill at home, surf the Internet or watch TV. While most of the TV and Internet content consists of satire that ranges from laugh-out-loud funny to disgusted smirk, the fact that it’s there, and that there’s so damn much of it, just adds another layer of reality to this town. You’ll hear radio and TV news updates about tragedies around town—mostly caused by you—then have the ability to

surf Internet news and see a more detailed version of those stories on blogs and websites. These elements are so dense and self-referential, part of you wonders just where this place is, and how the fuck you get there.

Obviously, it’s not perfect—no game really is—but there’s something to be said for just how forward-thinking it really is. Rockstar created as literal a 21st-century city as you can attain in a virtual landscape, and infused it with their special brand of wanton destruction and sardonicism. What they’ve done here is truly revolutionary, and like *GTA III*, no one will come close to achieving a benchmark like this again for a very long time.

Golden Bear Bass signs contract with CFL's Eskimos

Third-year defensive linebacker will head to Esks training camp ready to try his hand at competing within the pro ranks

NICK FROST
Sports Editor

When Dan Bass Jr takes to the football field this fall, he'll be donning a green and gold jersey—however, there's a chance that he could be doing it for the Edmonton Eskimos instead of the Golden Bears.

Last Friday, the Eskimos announced that they had signed the third-year Bears linebacker and former CIS First-Team All-Canadian to a free-agent contract. After coming off of a season that saw him lead all defensive players in Canada West with an 8.3 tackles per game average, Bass is ready to take it to the next level. He says that Edmonton had their eye on him for some time and were waiting for the right moment to make him an offer.

"I talked to [the Eskimos] around mid-March at the evaluation camp," Bass said. "They were one of the teams that wanted to meet with me and they phoned me about ten minutes after the CFL draft had ended."

It's not difficult to see why the Esks were so eager to bring Bass into the fray; many consider him to be one of the most naturally-talented football players at the collegiate level. On one side of the coin is his skill-set; as Alberta head coach Jerry Friesen—who has coached Bass for all three of his years at the U of A—will tell you, his football ability is already amongst the strongest in CIS at his position, and will progressively get stronger with this new experience.

"He's wired to play football," Friesen said. "When he's out there competing, he knows very well what's happening and he knows how to run our defense. Athletically, one of the things he has to work on is his speed, but that will definitely come. The other parts of the game, however, and all the intangibles are already there."

The other side of the coin to consider is his lineage within the game. Bass' father Dan Bass Sr played 12 seasons in the CFL and is a member of the Canadian Football Hall of Fame. The younger



FILE PHOTO: NICK WIEBE

PUMP UP THE BASS Newly-acquired Eskimos linebacker Dan Bass Jr shows two of the UBC Thunderbirds just why the CFL came knocking on his door.

Bass will be the first to tell you that having a prominent role model like his father at such a young age certainly helped facilitate his drive to make a career out of a game that seems to flow through his bloodstream.

"This is absolutely something I've wanted to do my entire life," Bass explained. "Not just my dad, but my grandfather also played semi-pro, and football is also very big on my mom's side. I mean, I've been playing football since I was about eight years old, so ever since then, it's been something I've really grown passionate about and wanted to pursue."

While Bass will have the full support of his Golden Bears coaches and teammates in his efforts to make the Eskimos roster, he still has the ability to come back and compete for the U of A for two more years should he not crack the CFL this year.

"He still has eligibility left at the CIS level, so he wants to get a good look at what it's going to take to get to the next level. It's just great exposure for him and also for our football program. All of this will make him a better football player if and when he comes back this fall."

Regardless of what happens at the Esks training camp, Bass plans on taking whatever he can out of

the experience and applying it to whatever situation he might find himself playing in next year.

"It's tough to say what could happen because this is my first pro camp and I have no idea what to expect," Bass said. "I know the game pace is going to be much faster than what I'm used to."

"My expectations aren't too high yet, though, because I wasn't drafted and was signed as a free agent. If it doesn't work out, I'm more than happy to come back and play for the U of A. Some of the best coaching I've ever had has been here at the U of A; I don't think I would've made this step if I had gone anywhere else."

Football foursome head to Hamilton for CIS East-West Bowl

Jozzy, Muchena, Pagnucco, and Rottier to compete against best from the CIS in front of CFL scouts on Saturday at McMaster

NICK FROST
Sports Editor

Four members of the Golden Bears football squad are among the season's best on display this weekend, as McMaster University hosts the sixth-annual CIS East-West Bowl. Among the 45 men selected to the West's roster, Alberta will be well-represented by running back Tendayi Jozzy, cornerback Chris Muchena, and linemen Kyle Pagnucco and Simeon Rottier.

For the second-year Muchena and third-years Jozzy and Rottier, this will be their first opportunity to compete at the event in front of CIS representatives, and, more importantly, CFL scouts. However, for Pagnucco—who helped the West claim their fifth-straight victory last year—this will be his second opportunity make a further impression on those in attendance from the professional ranks. Alberta head coach Jerry Friesen believes that the selection of these players not only bodes well for them, but also for the U of A's football program.

"I think that it's a testament to the players and their commitment to progressing, and it's also a reflection on the progress of the team," Friesen explained. "The CFL wants to see these guys in a game situation against some of the other best second- and third-year players in Canada. That'll be the good part for our four guys—they'll be able to expose some of their skills to the CFL teams in both game and practice situations."

While, at first glance, the East-West Bowl may simply appear to be the CIS football equivalent of any major league all-star game, the game itself

is actually encompassed by a number of other activities and functions that are meant to provide a learning experience for those involved. According to event coordinator Jon Behie, being selected to participate goes a long way in readying the players for the road ahead towards a potential career in pro football.

"The thought of the game itself is to get guys recognized by the CFL teams—it's like an early staging ground," Behie explained. "So, as much as it is an all-star game, it's also much more than that. It really is a full week of activities because we're trying our best to make it worth every guy's while."

Among the activities scheduled for the week are physical testing, which includes the 40-yard dash, pro agility tests, bench press and vertical jump in front of CFL scouts; two major practices; and a coach's clinic with Toronto Argonauts special teams coordinator Marcello Simmons and Calgary Stampeders president Jim Barker as guest speakers. The players will also get a chance to relax and meet one another while taking a break in Toronto to attend a Blue Jays game, as well as a casual banquet for players and coaches back in Hamilton later in the week.

"This is about the sixth or seventh year that the East-West Bowl is going, and it gives the kids a real good opportunity to meet some of the other players both in Canada West and from across Canada," Friesen said. "Bringing together all of these players who watch each other from different conferences is a huge benefit; they end up going out to McMaster and all of those other universities around southern Ontario, so



FILE PHOTO: PETE YEE

HEY NOW, YOU'RE AN ALL-STAR Tendayi Jozzy (23) gets his game on in Hamilton this weekend.

they also get a good opportunity to see the other schools as well as the other players."

And those benefits have shown themselves for people involved in the event prior to this year. If someone were to question the event's past success or credibility, Behie says to look no further than some of the players who have already participated in years past and gone on to achieve either collegiate or pro success.

"Four past Hec Creighton winners have played

in this game: Jesse Lumsden, Tom Denison, Andy Fantuz and Daryl Stephenson," Behie said. "If you want to measure the success of the event, that's one way that you could do it. As well, a large percentage of all the players that take part in the week of the East-West Bowl go on to get invited to a CFL combine."

The East-West Bowl will take place this Saturday at McMaster's Ronald V Joyce Stadium in Hamilton, Ontario starting at 4pm ET.

New recruits looking to make impression on football Bears

NICK FROST
Sports Editor

Having just recently completed their first spring camp, the Golden Bears football team has already begun to usher in their first wave of new recruits hoping to make the 2008/09 roster.

With a few of Alberta's players having reached the end of their eligibility, as well as the convincing number of first-year players who made the team last year, there's hope among these fresh-faced youngsters that some of them will be on the turf at Foote Field come fall.

Several of the new recruits are notable junior products, including former Edmonton Wildcats quarterback Brendan Maher—who has been to both a Canadian and Prairie junior-league final; offensive lineman Nick Ternovatsky, brother of former Golden Bear Neil Ternovatsky; and defensive back Ryan Dean, a Harry Ainlay graduate who spent the last year playing for the Victoria Rebels of the British Columbia Football Conference. Others are looking to make the leap straight out of high school, like offensive tackle Ben Downs from St Paul's High School in Winnipeg.

"I thought the camp was outstanding; there were a couple of guys that played really well," Alberta head coach Jerry Friesen said. "Taking a look at a young guy like Ryan Dean—he played really well, as well as Scott Ledieu—a lineman from Athabasca—who played really well on the offensive line. When you look at some of the high school

and junior players coming in, these are some of the other guys that, in time, will make an impact for us."

On top of the aforementioned players are another handful of young bloods that Friesen sees as the main set of recruits ready to make a serious run when training camp officially opens up on 15 August.

"That's just the core group," Friesen said. "Over and above that, we've probably got about twelve to 15 real quality recruits. We had 43 new players at the spring camp that we just completed, so that's just the key group of players that are going to make an impact on our team for the 2008 season."

"The biggest thing at the U of A is that we have to make sure they're not only good football players, but they're also academically sound."

JERRY FRIESEN
BEARS FOOTBALL HEAD COACH

While no formal practices can be held during the summer due to CIS regulations, all of the players—including the new recruits—will have to find time to adhere to a specialized program that will allow them to come to camp ready and willing to make an impact.

"All of our players are on a monitored strength and speed program throughout the summer and they do it in groups," Friesen explained. "We expect them to come to camp in their top physical condition. Along with their summer jobs and all of their summer activities, they have to maintain a very disciplined strength and speed."

From all indications, this year's class of potential rookies looks promising; however, according to Friesen, recruitment is always something that Alberta focuses a great deal of attention on every year. The process of recruitment is one that never ends for those involved with the Golden Bears football program, and requires a rigorous amount of effort in order to find just the right kind of player.

"Recruiting starts all the way from when the kids are coming through the Summer Games bantam programs," Friesen said. "That's the initial contact, and then when you start seeing them at some of these U-17 games, that's when we get to see them progress. Then, even in high school, we make sure that we keep contact with the players."

"The biggest thing at the U of A is that we have to make sure they're not only good football players, but that they're also academically sound so that they can get in as a student at the University. We have to look at other components and that process opens up the web where we have to go all the way from Vancouver to Winnipeg to make sure that there is a player that has the ability to not only compete, but also become a student."

Teams still standing in NHL postseason show parity could be on its way out again

NICK FROST

Sports
Commentary

If I were to ask you what year it is, you'd probably tell me—before calling me a schmuck—that it's 2008 and, chances are, you'd be right (about the year, not the schmuck thing). Although, if you've been following this year's Stanley Cup Playoffs and, like me, you use the seasonal progression of the NHL to keep track of Earth years, you're probably under a similar impression that we're more likely in the year 1998.

Though it may be a little premature, I have deduced that there is a simple non-scientific explanation for this illusion of a hockey-induced time warp. It would seem that the parity that the NHL was hoping to achieve post-lockout is starting to fade out. The teams that dominated the late '90s into the new millennium are starting to roar back to the top, and the people who run them have outsmarted the effort to even out the league.

From about the 1995 lockout season all the way until the 2004/05 lockout season, the NHL's lacking parity started to become most noticeable. Five specific teams—the Western Conference tri-force of the Colorado Avalanche, the Dallas Stars, and the Detroit Red Wings, along with the New Jersey

Devils and the Philadelphia Flyers in the East—continuously sat in the upper echelon of the league, while smaller-market clubs trembled at the knees and idealists sought less predictability and a fairer fight for all 30 franchises.

And it's not hard to see why: over this decade-long span, at least one of these five teams either won the Stanley Cup or made it to the finals each year (with the exception of the Tampa Bay-Calgary series in 2003/04—you can thank a three-headed monster and hot goalie, respectively, for the aberration.)

Fast forward to 2008 and we see the trend start to re-emerge: all five teams made it to the quarterfinals, four advanced to the semi-finals, and three of them make up the four teams currently battling it out for their conference's championship. In the end, we will see at least one of them vying for Lord Stanley's Mug.

Sure, there were years before the 2004/05 lockout where Cinderella teams had their chance to wear the magical glass skate all the way to the Stanley Cup Finals—the Capitals, Sabres, Hurricanes, and Mighty Ducks, in that order, all made it between 1998 and 2003, but were easily dismantled in each instance. And, yes, parity did bring the new NHL a fresh breed of Cup contenders for a couple of years after the lockout. However, those five powerhouse teams—minus a few one-year slips for a couple of them—have consistently rolled onwards near the top, and have inevitably put themselves back in a position to reign supreme.

The one common denominator

between the league's elite clubs that keeps them performing so well, as opposed to the fairweather contenders, is that the people running them have better hockey sense to be able to keep their teams performing at a high level.

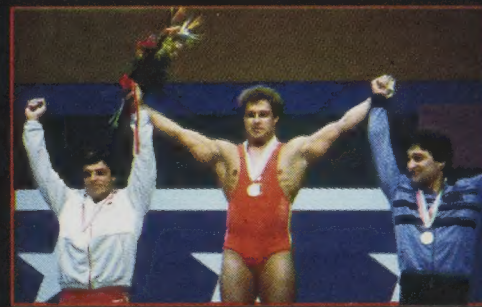
Take the Detroit Red Wings, for example, who have had Ken Holland as general manager for nearly eleven years and are renowned for the quality of players discovered by their European scouts. With strong centre-pieces like Nicklas Lidstrom and Steve Yzerman, for years they were able to find the right complementary players to help lead the Wings to three championships in 1997, 1998, and 2002. And, while they were at it, they were also busy priming Pavel Datsyuk and Henrik Zetterberg—sixth- and seventh-round picks respectively—to become the new leaders of the team.

You could cite plenty of other examples, such as Colorado's timely trades for Rob Blake and Ray Bourque in 2001, Dallas' ability to transition in Brendan Morrow after Joe Nieuwendyk's departure, or the Flyers' slight overpayment of Daniel Briere to lead come playoff time.

Either way, these teams are all successful for a reason: they have the current talent, as well as a gang of prospects coming up the pipe that have been placed there by some of the strongest minds in professional hockey today. While it would be nice to see parity continue in the years to come, my belief is that the old guard is back in charge and here to stay. Meet the new boss, same as the old boss.

On This Day in 1984:

The Soviet Union and the Eastern Bloc announced that they were boycotting the Summer Olympics in Los Angeles.



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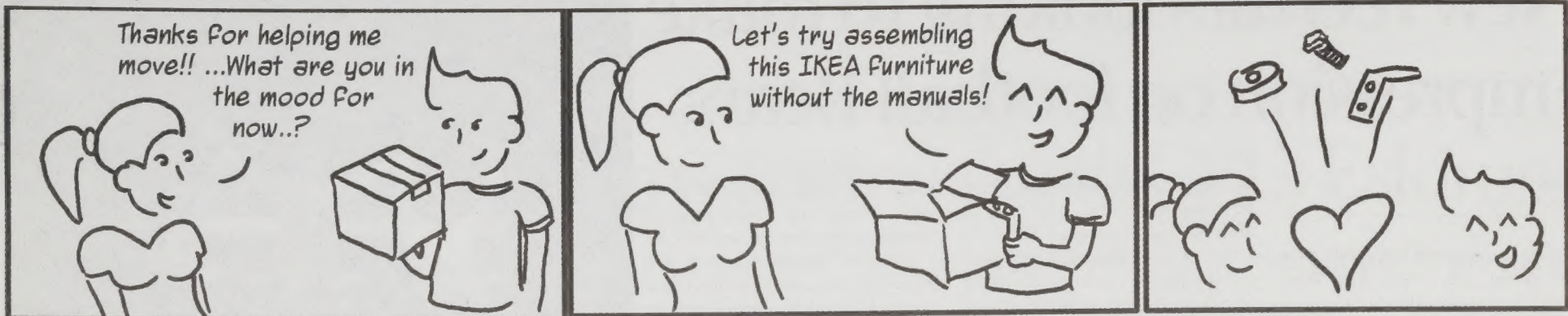
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